

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

I. Amendments to the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9-14, 16-19, and 21-23 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 16, 18, and 19 are amended. Claim 8 is canceled.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment and submit that the above amendment does not constitute new matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 8. Claims 6, 9, 14, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended for proper antecedent basis. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed.

Based on the instant amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action stated that claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Jyy-Jih Tsai-Wu *et al.*, *Preparation of Heteroduplex DNA Containing a Mismatch Base Pair with Magnetic Beads*, *Analytical Biochemistry* 275, 127-129 (1999) (“the Tsai-Wu reference”). *See* Office Action, pp. 2-5. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 8, which was designated as being allowable. *See* Office Action Summary. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot and claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16, and 21 depend from claim 1; therefore, they are also in condition for allowance.

For at least these reasons, the Tsai-Wu reference does not anticipate the claims of the present application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

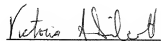
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that the rejections be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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